



Project Leader
505/766-3325
Coordinator
505/766-3326

United States Department of the Interior SAN JUAN BASIN REGIONAL URANIUM STUDY

P. O. Box 1685
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

DECLASSIFIED

May 5, 1978

San Juan Basin Regional Uranium Study Background Information

The SJBRUS is a massive information gathering effort by the Department of Interior which will analyze the effects of all future uranium development in the San Juan Basin and Grants Mineral Belt. The study will focus on the impacts of uranium development activity, i.e. exploration, mining, milling, construction and reclamation, on the natural and human environment over a time span starting at the present and extending into the 21st century.

The Study will satisfy the need perceived by Interior Department to understand the cumulative effects of possible large scale uranium development activity in order to supplement future site specific environmental impact statements. The document itself is a "study". There is no specific decision or action plan that is being analyzed relative to impacts. Thus, all development activity on state, federal, tribal and private lands are being studied as a natural unit.

The study area is defined geologically by the Jurassic outcrop of the Morrison formation. This area encompasses southern Colorado, the southeast corner of Utah, and the northwest quadrant of New Mexico. Within this area, the team will focus on the subregions that hold the most potential for large scale uranium development.

The study task force is composed of natural and social scientists, private consultants and employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, United States Geological Survey, Bureau of Mines, Mining Engineering and Safety Administration, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and Heritage, Conservation and Recreation Service. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is the lead agency due to its trust responsibilities on Indian lands.

The study officially began on August 18, 1977; and will extend for 18 months. The SJBRUS staff anticipate a first rough draft by September, 1978.

The methodology of the study is to analyze forecasts of uranium demand on the basin area and derive projected production figures. These production figures have been converted to uranium development outputs that will impact the socio-economic and natural environment over time. These impacts will be quantified wherever possible, and translated into "results of impacts - needs", etc.



9383120

CONFIDENTIAL

POL-EPA01-0008934

SJBRUS Background Information
May 5, 1978
Page 2

The study team is systematically soliciting inputs, both information and perceptions, from all sectors involved in uranium development activity; including other federal agencies, the state, cities, tribal governments, uranium development companies, interest groups, etc.

For further information, contact the SJBRUS office at 505-766-3327, (FTS 474-3327). The study is located in Room 320 of the Old Post Office Building, 123 4th Street S.W., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103, P. O. Box 1590.